

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-23, 38, 46, 51, and 54 under 35 USC 101. In addition, the Examiner asserts that claim 24 recites a method which is not defined within 35 USC 101. Applicant has amended the claims such that the claims are directed to a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are now allowable.

With respect to claim 24, the claimed invention enables data retrieved from multiple data stores storing data in different formats to be stored in a single data structure. As a result, a query directed to multiple data stores storing data in different formats may be processed (e.g., see claim 30). In other words, a heterogeneous data structure may be generated and used to store and retrieve data that is in different formats. By storing the data in the heterogeneous data structure, the data is transformed to a different state. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 24 is directed to patentable subject matter.

The Examiner asserts that claim 56 is a substantial duplicate of claim 24. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. For example, claim 24 includes the limitation, “the row type being selectable from a set of row types.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are of different scopes.

It does not appear that the Examiner has rejected the remaining pending claims in this Office Action. However, the Examiner has not indicated that the remaining claims are allowable. Applicant believes this to be a typographical error. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate those claims that are allowable in the subsequent Office Action.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. ACTUP006).

Respectfully submitted,
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